

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 13 of 1913.]

# REPORT

ON

# NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 29th March 1913.

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Nil.

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## PART I OF WEEKLY REPORT.

## LIST OF VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS.

(Corrected up to the 16th November 1912.)

| No.            | Name of Publication.         | Where published.   | Edition.                   | Name, caste and age of Editor.  | Circulation.    |
|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1              | 2                            | 3                  | 4                          | 5   | 6               |
| <b>BENGAL.</b> |                              |                    |                            |   |                 |
| 1              | "Bangaratna"                 | Krishnagar         | Weekly                     | Kanal Lal Das Hindu, Karmokar; age 28 year  | 1,500           |
| 2              | "Bangavasi"                  | Calcutta           | Do.                        | Bihari Lal Sarkar Kayastha, age 55 years; Hari Mohan Mukherji, Brahmin, age 43 years; Satyendra Kumar Basu. | 15,000          |
| 3              | "Bankura Darpan"             | Bankura            | Do.                        | Rama Nath Mukherji, v.L.M.S., Brahmin, age 51 years; Viswanath Mukharji, B.L., Brahmin, age 40 years.       | 453             |
| 4              | "Barisal Hitalehi"           | Barisal            | Do.                        | Durga Mohan Sen, Baidya, age 35 years   | 600             |
| 5              | "Banga Janani"               | Rangpur (Bhotmari) | Do.                        | Sasi Mohan Adhikari, Baidya, age 37 years   | .....           |
| 6              | "Basumati"                   | Calcutta           | Do.                        | Sureschandra Samajpati; Hari Pada Adhikari, age 41 years; Mani Lal Banerji, age 36 years.                   | 18,00 to 20,00  |
| 7              | "Birbhum Hitalehi"           | Bolepur (Birbhum)  | Do.                        | Dibakar Banerji; Hindu, Brahmin; age 43 years   | 350             |
| 8              | "Birbhum Varta"              | Suri (Do.)         | Do.                        | Debendra Nath Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 38 years  | 960             |
| 9              | "Birbhum Vasi"               | Rampurhat (Do.)    | Do.                        | Nil Ratan Mukherji, B.A., Brahmin, age 44 years   | 750             |
| 10             | "Biswadut"                   | Howrah             | Do.                        | Nagendra Nath Pal Chaudhuri; Hindu, Kayastha; age 6 years.  | 1,500           |
| 11             | "Burdwan Sanjivani"          | Burdwan            | Do.                        | Probodhananda Sarkar, B.L., Kayastha, age 31 years  | 500             |
| 12             | "Chabbis Pargana Vartavaha." | Bhowanipore        | Do.                        | Hem Chandra Nag, Kayastha, age 29 years   | 500 to 700      |
| 13             | "Charumihir"                 | Mymensingh         | Do.                        | Baikuntha Nath Sen, B.L., Kayastha, age 42 years  | 1,100           |
| 14             | "Chinsura Varata-vaha."      | Chinsura           | Do.                        | Dinanath Mukherji, Brahmin, age 46 years  | 800             |
| 15             | "Dainik Chandrika"           | Calcutta           | Daily, except on Thursday. | Hari Das Dutt and Kabetra Nath Sen  | 4,000           |
| 16             | "Dacca Gazette"              | Dacca              | Weekly                     | Satya Bhushan Dutt Roy, Baidya, age 46 years  | 800             |
| 17             | "Dacca Praks"                | Do.                | Do.                        | Mukhunda Behari Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 43 years  | 870             |
| 18             | "Dhruba Tara"                | Mymensingh         | Do.                        | .....   | .....           |
| 19             | "Education Gazette"          | Chinsura           | Do.                        | Pandit Nibaran Chandra Bhattacharjee Brahmin, age 56 years.   | 1,500           |
| 20             | "Faridpur Hitalehini"        | Faridpur           | Fortnightly                | Raj Mohan Mazumdar, Baidya, age about 72 years  | .....           |
| 21             | "Gaud Dat"                   | Malda              | Weekly                     | Krishna Chandra Agarwalla   | .....           |
| 22             | "Hindu Ranjika"              | Rajshahi           | Do.                        | Kasinuddin Sarkar, Muhammadan, Printer, age 41 year   | 155             |
| 23             | "Hindusthan"                 | Calcutta           | Do.                        | Hari Das Dutt   | 1,000           |
| 24             | "Hitavadi"                   | Do.                | Do.                        | Anukul Chandra Mukherji and Sakharan Ganesh Denshka   | 2,300 to 25,000 |
| 25             | "Hitavarta"                  | Chittagong         | Do.                        | .....   | .....           |
| 26             | "Islam Rabi"                 | Mymensingh         | Do.                        | Maulvi Nasimuddin Ahmad, Musalman, age about 35 years   | 700             |
| 27             | "Jagaran"                    | Bagerhat           | Do.                        | .....   | About 300       |
| 28             | "Jasohar"                    | Jessore            | Do.                        | Ananda Mohan Chaudhuri; Hindu, Kayastha   | 500             |
| 29             | "Jyoti"                      | Chittagong         | Do.                        | Kali Sankar Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 47 years  | 1,500 to 2,000  |
| 30             | "Kalyan"                     | Magura             | Do.                        | Bisweswar Mukherji, Brahmin, age 48 years   | 500             |



| No. | Name of Publication.                         | Where published.   | Edition.        | Name, caste and age of Editor.   | Circulation.   |
|-----|--|--------------------|-----------------|--|----------------|
| 1   | 2  | 3                  | 4               | 5  | 6              |
|     | <b>BENGALI—contd.</b>                        |                    |                 |  |                |
| 31  | "Kasipore Nibasi" ..                         | Barisal ... ..     | Weekly ... ..   | Pratap Chandra Mukherji; Brahmin; age 68 years ... ..  | 500            |
| 32  | "Khulnavasi" ...                             | Khulna ... ..      | Do. ... ..      | Gopal Chandra Mukherji; Hindu, Brahmin, age 51 years   | 350            |
| 33  | "Malda Samachar"                             | Malda ... ..       | Do. ... ..      | Kali Prassanna Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 42 years ... ..   | 440            |
| 34  | "Manbhum" ...                                | Purulia ... ..     | Do. ... ..      | Bagala Charan Ghosh; Hindu, Kayastha; age 41 years ...   | About 500      |
| 35  | "Midnapore Hitaishi"                         | Midnapore ... ..   | Do. ... ..      | Manmatha Nath Nag, Kayastha, age 38 years ... ..   | 500            |
| 36  | "Medini Bandhab"                             | Ditto ... ..       | Do. ... ..      | Deb Das Karan; Hindu, Sadgop; age 44 years ... ..  | 400            |
| 37  | "Moslem Hitaishi"...                         | Calcutta ... ..    | Do. ... ..      | Shaik Abdur Rahim and Mozummul Haque ... ..  | 4,000 to 5,000 |
| 38  | "Mubammedi" ...                              | Ditto ... ..       | Do. ... ..      | Muhammad Akram Khan, Musalman, age 37 years, and Maulvi Akbar Khan.  | 2,000          |
| 39  | "Murahidabad Hitaishi."                      | Saidabad ... ..    | Do. ... ..      | Banwari Lal Goswami Hindu, Brahmin; age 46 years ...   | 200            |
| 40  | "Nayak" ... ..                               | Calcutta ... ..    | Daily ... ..    | Birendra Chandra Ghosh and Panchkari Banerjee ... ..   | 1,500 to 3,000 |
| 41  | "Navavanga" ...                              | Chandpur ... ..    | Weekly ... ..   | Harendra Kisore Ray, Kayastha, age 25 years ... ..   | 500            |
| 42  | "Noakhali Sammilan"                          | Noakhali ... ..    | Do. ... ..      | Sasi Bhushan Das, Kayastha ... ..  | 300            |
| 43  | "Niher" ... ..                               | Contai ... ..      | Do. ... ..      | Madhu Sudan Jana, Brahmo, age 43 years ... ..  | 300            |
| 44  | "Pallivarta" ...                             | Bongong ... ..     | Do. ... ..      | Charu Chandra Ray; Hindu, Kayastha; age 38 years ...   | 500            |
| 45  | "Pallivasi" ...                              | Kalna ... ..       | Do. ... ..      | Sasi Bhushan Banerji, age 47 years ... ..  | 200            |
| 46  | "Pabna Hitaishi"                             | Pabna ... ..       | Do. ... ..      | Basant Kumar Vidyavinode, Bhattacharyya, Brahmin, age 36 years.  | 500            |
| 47  | "Praja Bandhu" ...                           | Tippera ... ..     | Fortnightly ... | Munshi Muhammad Ali Meer, Musalman, age 53 years ...   | 200            |
| 48  | "Prasun" ... ..                              | Katwa ... ..       | Weekly ... ..   | Purna Chandra Chatterji, Brahmin age 47 years, and Banku Behary Ghose, Goala, age 41 years.  | 615            |
| 49  | "Pratibha" ...                               | Berhampur ... ..   | Do. ... ..      | Kamakshya Prasad Ganguly, Brahmin, age 64 years ...  | 500            |
| 50  | "Purulia Darpan" ...                         | Purulia ... ..     | Do. ... ..      | Amulya Ratan Chatterji, Brahmin, age 41 years ... ..   | About 700      |
| 51  | "Rajskati" ... ..                            | Ditto ... ..       | Do. ... ..      | Bagala Charan Ghosh, Kayastha, age 41 years ... ..   | 110            |
| 52  | "Ratnakar" ...                               | Asansol ... ..     | Do. ... ..      | Satya Kinkar Banerji, Brahmin, age 26 years ... ..   | 500            |
| 53  | "Rangpur Durpan"                             | Rangpur (Bhotmari) | Do. ... ..      | Braja Nath Basak; Hindu, Tanti; age 52 years ... ..  | 200            |
| 54  | "RangpurDikpraks"                            | Ditto ditto ...    | Do. ... ..      | Hara Sarkar Meitra, Brahmin, age 68 year ... ..  | 300            |
| 55  | "Samay" ... ..                               | Calcutta ... ..    | Do. ... ..      | Jnanendra Nath Das, M.A., B.L., Brahmo, age 58 years ...   | 1,500 to 800   |
| 56  | "Sanjaya" ... ..                             | Faridpur ... ..    | Do. ... ..      | Rama Nath Ghosh, Kayastha, age about 38 years ... ..   | 500            |
| 57  | "Sanjivani" ...                              | Calcutta ... ..    | Do. ... ..      | Lalit Mohan Das, late Professor, City College; Sibnath Sastri, M.A.; Ramananda Chatterji, M.A., Editor, "Modern Review," etc.; K. K. Mitter. | 11,000         |
| 58  | "Sangodhini" ...                             | Chittagong ... ..  | Do. ... ..      | Kashi Chandra Das Gupta, Brahmo, age 60 years ... ..   | 400            |
| 59  | "Suhrid" ... ..                              | Perojpur ... ..    | Fortnightly ... | Ram Chandra Pal, Kayastha ... ..   | 200            |
| 60  | "Subarnabanik" ...                           | Calcutta ... ..    | Weekl ... ..    | .....  | .....          |
| 61  | "Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-Ananda Bazar Patrika." | Ditto ... ..       | Do. ... ..      | Rasik Mohan Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 30 years, and Mrinal Kanti Ghosh.  | 2,500          |
| 62  | "Siksha Samachar"                            | Dacca ... ..       | Do. ... ..      | Abinas Chandra Gupta, M.A., B.L., Baluya, age 36 year ...  | .....          |
| 63  | "Suraj" ... ..                               | Pabna ... ..       | Do. ... ..      | .....  | .....          |
| 64  | "The Calcutta Advertiser"                    | Calcutta ... ..    | Do. ... ..      | .....  | .....          |
| 65  | "Tripura Guide" ...                          | Comilla ... ..     | Do. ... ..      | .....  | .....          |



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|-----|--|------------------|------------|---|--------------|
| 1   | 2                                      | 3                | 4          | 5   | 6            |
| 66  | BENGALI—consolid.<br>"Tripura Hitaisi" | Tippura ...      | Weekly ... | Kamunya Kumar Singh, Brahmo, age 38 ...                         | 500          |
| 67  | "Vartabaha"                            | Ranaghat ...     | Do. ...    | Girja Nath Mukherji, Hindu, Brahmo, age 41 years ...            | 500 to 600   |
| 8   | "Viswavarta"                           | Duo ...          | Do. ...    | Abinash Chandra Gupta, M.A., B.L., Hindu, Baidya, age 36 years. | 1,000        |



*Additions to, and alterations in, the list of Vernacular Newspapers as it stood on the 16th  
November 1912.*

| No. | Name of Publication. | Where published. | Edition. | Name, caste and age of Editor. | Circulation |
|-----|----------------------|------------------|----------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1   | " Bharat Chitra "    | Calcutta         | Weekly   | ...                            | ...         |
| 2   | " Hablul Matin " ... | Calcutta         | Daily    | ...                            | ...         |

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## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

REFERRING to the necessity of reforming the police in Bengal, the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 15th March says:—

JASOHAR,  
Mar. 15th, 1913.

Reform of the Bengal Police.

At present the Thana Police are, both by their education and moral attainments, unfit to discharge the responsible duties which fall on them. This is why the public has no faith in them. We, therefore, suggest that every thana should be placed in charge of an Inspector, and that every subdivision should have two officers of the status of Sub-Deputy Magistrates who will supervise the work of Inspectors. The Police Department will be reformed only if it is manned by such officers as can mix with educated people, and are themselves keen-sighted educated men. Merely increasing the pay of officers will not be of much use.

2. Referring to the complaint which Babu Kedar Nath Ray of the

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 20th, 1913.

An aftermath of the Jagatsi affair—a complaint against the police.

Jagatsi Arunachal Asram has made to the Government of Bengal against the police, on the ground that though previously proved innocent and acquitted in the Jagatsi case he was arrested by the Kasba police, chained and confined in *hajat*, and next sent to jail by the Subdivisional officer of Brahmanberia without any offence, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th March requests the Government to enquire into the matter at once.

3. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th March

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 20th, 1913.

The *Sivaratri* festival in the Chandranath Temple and the police.

complains that on the occasion of the last *Sivaratri* festival a policeman realized entrance fees from pilgrims at the gate of the Chandranath Temple at Sitakunda, Chittagong, in the name of the Mohunt of the temple. This was an unjust realization, for the only money to which the mohunt is entitled from pilgrims is the money which they pay to the god after seeing him, out of respect for the Diety. One old woman was so rudely pushed by the policeman for not paying the entrance fee that she fell down, fractured her skull and became unconscious. The correspondent gave first-aid to her and then sent her to Babu Kalikinkar Adhikari's house. Volunteers, however, did excellent service and proved themselves much more efficient in maintaining order than policemen.

4. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 10th March publishes the same correspondence, and regrets that such police oppression should have taken place under the nose of the

JYOTI,  
Mar. 10th, 1913.

*Ibid.*

Magistrate who was in charge of the temple at the time.

5. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th March says that the young men

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 20th, 1913.

The police and the Provincial Conference at Dacca.

who had enlisted themselves as volunteers to work for the Bengal Provincial Conference at Dacca, having been obliged to retire on account of the great attention which the police began to pay to them, the barristers, pleaders and medical men of the town have taken their place with Babu Trailokyanath Basu, a well-known pleader aged 75, as their captain. They must be fools who think that a noble effort can be thwarted by intimidation.

6. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March writes that Mr. Prentice,

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 21st, 1913.

Gun licenses in Hooghly.

District Magistrate of Hooghly, is refusing licenses for fire-arms to men who used to possess them before. There would be some thing to say if there were any objections made against these holders of licenses of having abused their licenses. As it is, Hooghly is notorious for depredations of its wild beasts and its frequent crimes against property. Where then is the propriety of depriving respectable men of fire-arms, which Mr. Prentice's predecessors permitted them to retain?



## (b)—Working of the Courts.

BANGAVASI,  
Mar. 22nd, 1913.

7. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd March does not like the idea

The rumoured splitting up of the Calcutta Police Court.

of splitting up the Calcutta Police Court into three smaller courts, and requests the Government to carefully consider the matter before coming to a decision on it. The grounds urged in favour of the rumoured change are (1) congestion of work and (2) want of accommodation. It is a wonder why, in spite of the number of stipendiary Presidency Magistrates having been greatly increased, work should have gone on accumulating in the Police Court. The Magistrates are not slow workers. On the contrary, it is a matter of general complaint that they are given to hurrying through cases for clearing their files as soon as possible. Official reports show that the number of important cases also has not much increased of late. It is only the number of petty cases which has enormously increased within the last one or two years. These cases, however, are heard by the Registrar of the court, and do not, therefore, go to swell the files of Magistrates. The cause of the congestion of work in the stipendiary Magistrates' courts is that important cases are no longer entrusted to Honorary Magistrates as they used to be done before. It is not, therefore, clear how a mere splitting up of the Police court in three buildings without increasing the number of working magistrates, can relieve the congestion of work. What is wanted for relief of pressure of work is appointment of competent men as Honorary Magistrates, and holding of three or four Honorary Benches by them every day. As regards the difficulty of accommodation, it can best be got over by removing the court to one of the big office buildings vacated by the Government of India, or providing an increased accommodation in the present police court building by removing the Fire Brigade from it.

The rumoured splitting up of the court will necessitate the appointment of a larger number of clerks than at present exists, increase the cost of litigation by raising the fees of pleaders, and inconvenience the police by compelling them to attend different courts in different parts of the town.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Mar. 1<sup>st</sup> th, 1913.

8. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 18th March takes exception

The Mymensingh murder case—the jury returning a verdict by lottery.

to the confirmation by the High Court of the sentence of death passed on one Harakumar Barman by the District Judge of Mymensingh. Babu Sarat Chandra Majumdar, one of the jurors in the case, said, in the course of a dinner in the house of Babu Mahim Chandra Ray, a pleader, that he himself would have given a verdict of not guilty for the accused person, but that the other jurors being of a different opinion, the verdict had been decided by lottery. It is a wonder, however, that when Mr. Ghosh, Additional Judge, enquired into the matter Babu Sarat Chandra, along with the other jurors, told a quite different story. What Babu Sarat Chandra had said in the course of the dinner in Mahim Babu's house had been heard by Mahim Babu himself and many other respectable guests who were present on the occasion, and all these gentlemen were subsequently present in court for giving evidence in the enquiry. But the evidence of only Mahim Babu and Sudhendu, a *Chaprasi* of the local second Sub-Judge's court, was taken. On the court having remarked that no more evidence was required, the pleader for the accused person could not produce the other witnesses also. Witness Sudhendu had seen the lottery with his own eyes. The District Judge has subsequently made him a watchman in the Munsiff's Court at Kishoreganj by way of punishment.

In confirming the death sentence, the High Court has held that no affidavit can be taken against the verdict of a jury. The convicted man has petitioned the Government for sparing his life. We hope that Lord Carmichael will carefully consider the facts of the case before passing his final order.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 20th, 1913.

## 9. Referring to the fact that one of the assessors in the Comilla dacoity

Incompetent assessors and jurors.

case did not know English and could not, therefore, answer questions put to him by the trying judge, and also to the fact that at Mymensingh a jury gave a verdict of guilty in a murder case by lottery, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th March says that early steps should be taken to see that



such ignorant and incompetent men are not empanelled as assessors or jurors.

10. In many places in the mufassal, writes the *Okaru Mithi* [Mymensingh] of the 18th March, Criminal judicial officers still show an eagerness to hold Court till late in the evening. We hope that Mr. Spry, Magistrate of Mymensingh, will take steps to induce them not to hold Court after 4-30 P.M.

OKARU MITHI,  
Mar. 18th, 1913.

Holding Courts till late in the evening in the Mymensingh district.

A correspondent of the same paper complains that at Jamalpur Criminal Courts are daily held till 9 or 9-30 P.M., even after the issue of Mr. Spry's order that no Court should be held after 4-30 P.M. In fact, Mr. Spry's order is disregarded in most places. His attention is, therefore, drawn to the matter.

OKARU MITHI,  
Mar. 18th, 1913.

11. The *Midnapur Hitaishi* [Midnapur] of the 10th March publishes a letter complaining that the Munsiff at Garbeta pays all the "postponement fees" realized in his Court into a Fund, a third of which is given as aid to a local school and the remaining two-thirds wasted. Only the Midnapur Zamindar Company has, so far, succeeded in getting back the share of these fees to which they are entitled, no other suitor yet has been able to do the same. The High Court has declared for the abolition of such Funds, and yet here is this Fund raised by oppressing poor litigants, being used to gratify the whims of the Babus.

MIDNAPUR HITAIISHI,  
Mar. 10th, 1913.

Postponement fees at the Garbeta Munsiff's Court.

(d)—Education.

12. In discussing the note presented by the authorities of the Calcutta University to Government regarding the new Dacca University, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd March writes:—

BASUMATI,  
Mar. 22nd, 1913.

A University may be started at Dacca but some of the features proposed for the new University, notably the degrees for Islamic studies and the college for the well-to-do classes are being objected to by many. If there are to be separate degrees for Moslems, why not for Hindus and Jains as well? And the college for the well-to-do classes will not benefit those classes.

13. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd March writes that the Vice-Chancellor's address at the recent Calcutta University Convocation shows how the University is hampered by want of funds. It would have been well if, in view of this fact, Government had not thought of starting a new University. If ultimately Government comes to favour one of these Universities at the expense of the other, a fresh source of discontent will be created in the country. Let there be new Universities by all means, but let there be no favouritism in regard to one or other of them.

BASUMATI,  
Mar. 22nd, 1913.

14. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March cannot understand why the Sibpur Engineering College is to be transferred to Dacca. What is the objection to Dacca having a separate Engineering College of its own?

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 21st, 1913.

15. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th March admits the necessity of establishing an Engineering College at Dacca, but says that it will be highly injurious to abolish the Sibpur Engineering College. Bengal will be deeply dissatisfied if the Calcutta University is crippled.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 20th, 1913.

16. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th March deprecates the idea of the Government of Behar and Orissa to appoint a number of Indian Educational Service men as Head Masters of certain schools, on the ground that none who is not a master of the vernacular of a country can make a good teacher in that country. If however, the Government of Behar and Orissa intends to appoint Englishmen as Head Masters simply for governing schools, their purpose may be served thereby, but in the long run students may create troubles by growing impatient under their government. There was a time when in Eastern Bengal Head Masters could earn the good opinion

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 20th, 1913.

Indian Educational Service men as Head Masters.



of their superiors by being very strict rulers, no matter whether they could teach well or not. It is not, however, desirable that in the Education Department Police qualifications should be at such a premium.

NOAKHALI  
SAMMILANI,  
Mar. 17th, 1913.

17. The *Noakhali Sammilani* (Noakhali) of the 17th March publishes the following correspondence in English:—

"Madrasah curriculum."

The leaders of Mahomedan education have, for some years past, set their mind upon reforming the Madrasah curriculum. As a result of this, junior Department has been shaped on an entirely new mould, and the senior department also is on the verge of a thorough reorganization. The sweet Persian language, in which is imbedded the sublime moral teachings, the high spiritual effervescence of the two night-ingales of Shiraz, and in which is displayed the superb genius of many other Persian poets and authors, and which has been an object of the utmost love and veneration to the Indian Musalmans for many generations (having served as a beacon-light in the dark moral and religious atmosphere of their boys), has been made to say final good-bye from the reformed classes, which have been practically turned into Middle English schools. As regards Arabic too, it is taught there virtually as a second language, as the boys have to devote almost all their Madrasah periods to the multifarious subjects (*including songs*) prescribed for the the said Middle English Schools. The noble object of our benign Government in fostering these oriental languages has all along been, to all intents and purposes, to preserve intact the holy religious tenets of Islam among its Moslem subjects, and to maintain the old pure religious *status quo* among the followers of that sacred religion. The modern change inaugurated mostly by our brothers in faith, is giving the boys only a very flimsy knowledge of Arabic, inadequate to enable them to manipulate properly the many difficult religious problems that will be daily presented to them for solution. The new light shown to them also bids fair to sap the foundation of the religious air of their character, to undermine the purity and simplicity of their conduct, that has always been a special glory to the learners of Arabic and Persian. I have seen personally in a recent entertainment some Arabic students with a Matisvali as their guide, singing *gasals* or songs, vibrating their throats in strict conformity with the melodious tune of a harmonium. Their modern field exercises after western fashion will not also be sanctioned by any right-thinking doctor of religion. However, I do not wish to proceed further on the gradual religious degeneration that is threatening the pure atmosphere of these sacred institutions. But to return to the point, I would like to question the propriety of totally dispensing with Persian from the Madrasah curriculum all on a sudden. Have the reformers ever cared to think that Arabic and Persian have been so closely blended together in India for hundreds of years that one cannot be practically separated from the other. The cultivation of both these languages must proceed *pari passu*. It is difficult for Indians to walk on the higher levels of Arabic literature, or to make proper researches in the different subjects taught in that language without a thorough knowledge of Persian. The annotations and explanations of all Arabic books are either in Arabic or in Persian, (the few primary booklets recently introduced being excepted). A boy, therefore, on entering the first senior class with his shallow knowledge of Arabic and ignorance of Persian, does not at all see his way to proceed with his studies. Here he finds his Urdu rendering him no help, and he has only to scratch his head with deep sighs over his books. Before creating hunger we must prepare the food; but the new system without proper materials for teaching the boys is producing a baneful effect on their studies. It will require another five hundred years of Mahomedan affluence before the hope of recasting all the big Arabic books in Urdu pattern can ever be cherished. Besides, it seems to me a most absurd idea to replace Persian by Urdu in the Madrasahs of Bengal where Bengali is the mother tongue of the boys. If it was at all deemed proper to do away with Persian was it not but fair and just to select Bengali as the medium, if the object of the reformers was to show to the boys the shortest way to the field of Arabic literature? Urdu, besides being a new language to the Bengali boys, is virtually more difficult to be mastered than Persian. So what was the need of burdening their youthful heads with the

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additional arduous task of learning that language which is not at all necessary for them either in public or private life. Of course, the paucity of Arabic books in Bengali may be a possible objection, but this objection holds equally good in case of Urdu. The number of Arabic books in Bengali, published during the last few years, is not surely unequal to the task of giving a primary education to the boys, though they cannot surely take the field of any higher culture, which will also require many hundred years of Muhammadan affluence in the *Suba* of Bengal; but that is only a past dream. As regards a general change in the Madrasah curriculum, I would only say that it should not be a radical one, but ought to be compatible with the religious motive of the founders of these holy institutions. The link between the new and the old ideas must be in perfect harmony with the sacred teachings of Islam. The growth of new ideas must not be inculcated in a way that may upset the sanctity and rectitude of the old ones. If the object of the Madrasahs is to afford a proper scope for the cultivation of Islamic tenets with necessary secular education, I would only suggest that all useless subjects (viz. Logic, Munagera etc.) should be replaced by Hadis and Tafseer, as is in contemplation of the reformers of the senior department. English and Bengali may be taught only as compulsory second languages in senior and junior classes, respectively, though junior class boys should also learn rudiments of English as a part of their text. History and Geography should also be taught as compulsory subjects. Portions of Arithmetic that already exist in the curriculum are quite sufficient for all secular concerns. Further addition or change in the curriculum is, in my opinion, absolutely unnecessary, having regard to the principal object of the institutions. But if the object of the reformation is virtually to convert these religious institutions into so many High and Middle English schools, of which the number is already very great, then I have nothing to say: for it is difficult to stem the current of new civilization which will not curb its indomitable force before it will turn our simple and pious Mullas into a class of pleasure-seeking fops.

ABDUL WADUD, [B.A.]

NOAKHALI,

The 12th Mar. 1913.

18. A correspondent of the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 10th March complains of the perpetration of grave jobbery in the Chittagong Madrasah in connection with the last Test Examination in it. It is alleged that, while on the one hand most incompetent students who never passed any of the senior class examination have been selected on the strength of recommendation, many competent students, on the other hand, have either not been selected or been deprived of their right places. Again, in the current year a scholarship for the study of English in an Arabic class belonging rightly to one student, has in many cases, been given to another student.

JYOTI,  
Mar. 10th, 1913.

19. The *Nababanga* [Chandpur] of the 14th March announces that the land of the local Hasan Ali Jubilee school and the condemned buildings in connection with the school, were lately sold by auction for Rs. 23,850. In regard to the new buildings to be erected, we hope the Director of Public Instruction will pass final orders after a personal inspection, and will also consider the following points in this connection—

NABABANGA,  
Mar. 14th, 1913.

(1) Who has drawn up the plans and estimates for building the school premises? Has the contract been given to Satish Chandra Ray without any tenders having been publicly called for, and has the contractor been paid Rs. 10,000 in advance on the day the contract began?

(2) Whether the estimates are not too high, even if the school buildings be erected on the lines originally begun?

(3) When half the school building had been raised they were condemned as unsound. Yet the Inspector of Schools, Mr. Ashanulla, is eager to pay to the contractor Rs. 6,000 in addition to the Rs. 15,000 already paid.

(4) Is not the contractor appropriating to himself the proceeds of the sale of wood and timber left unused in connection with the condemned buildings? Has not the school committee protested against this?



(5) Was not Babu Pratap Chandra Chatterjee, the late Head-master, transferred because he objected to the way Satis Babu, the contractor, was neglecting this building work?

(6) Should not the price of the land sold alone have amounted to some 20,000 rupees, considering the high prices of land in Chandpur town?

JASOHAR,  
Mar. 15th, 1913.

20. Referring to the question in the Bengal Legislative Council about the desirability of reintroducing the system of scholarship examinations in scholarship examinations for Middle Vernacular and Middle English Schools, the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 15th March says that the abolition of these scholarship examinations has, by weakening the interest of the public in lower education and in vernacular schools, injured the cause of lower education in the country. It is, therefore necessary that the examinations should be reintroduced.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 20th, 1913.

21. Referring to the Hon'ble Mr. Ariff's question in the Bengal Legislative Council about village drainage, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th March says that Government should make no delay in finding out the best means of providing villages with drainage and spending money for the purpose.

BASUMATI,  
Mar. 22nd, 1913.

22. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd March writes that all Bengal is surprised that Lord Carmichael should give his casting vote to reject Mr. Surendranath Ray's motion in Council to grant a sum of 6½ lakhs of rupees for schemes for drainage and water-supply for mufassal municipalities. It was a most proper proposal, only the outlay proposed was utterly inadequate to the actual needs. For half the year, the whole of rural Bengal is converted into a huge hospital, so to speak, and if Government declines to spend 6 or 7 lakhs for alleviating the situation, where are the Bengalis to look for succour? This is really inconceivable, after the great interest Lord Carmichael has displayed so far in the question of rural sanitation in Bengal.

MUHAMMADI,  
Mar. 21st, 1913.

23. The *Muhammadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March writes that there is, in the eastern part of the District of 24-Perganas, a silted up stream or *baor* named Sonai, dammed up at both its ends. There are 15 or 16 villages on its banks, the people of which depend on it for their drinking water-supply. Nevertheless, the stupidity of the cultivators occasionally results in making its waters most noisome and dangerous: For the last two months, cholera has been raging in some of these villages, like Balti and Boyarghata and in one of them, Nityanandakati, 125 deaths have so far occurred. The attention of the local authority is drawn to the matter.

BANGAVASI,  
Mar. 22nd, 1913.

24. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd March thinks that the Government of the United Provinces has not done well by rejecting the proposal to spend some money for improving the supply of milk in the province and by granting that money to European lunatic asylums.

MUHAMMADI,  
Mar. 21st, 1913.

25. The *Muhammadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March hopes that the recent official statement in Council supplied to Mr. Abul Kassem regarding Moslem representation on local bodies in the Burdwan Division, ought to show Government how Moslem interests are being systematically trampled on all over India in regard to local self-governing bodies. The due preservation of those interests urgently demand the concession of a system of special representation to Moslems in consonance with their numerical importance in each area. And steps must be taken to guarantee that they safely enjoy this right when conceded. At present Moslems go practically unrepresented in local bodies, the Calcutta corporation being a case in point. In Burdwan, the lot of Moslems is particularly hard in this respect, and it is probably the reward for the support West Bengal Moslems accorded to Lord Curzon's scheme of Partition, though it went against their interests. Things are much the same in the Presidency



Division as well, specially in regard to the Local Boards. It is all rank injustice and partiality, which deserve prompt redress at the hands of Government.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

26. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd March is glad to see Mr. B. Chakravarty taking up in Council the question of a Government grant for creating two cattle grazing grounds to be conducted on up-to-date scientific lines. If Government had accepted Mr. Chakravarty's proposal, the people would have started grazing grounds of their own, in imitation of the example set by Government. Anyway, Government ought to encourage people in this direction.

*BASUMATI*,  
Mar. 22nd, 1913.

27. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20 March is not satisfied with the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr's reply to the Hon'ble Mr. Chakravarty's question on the subject of pasture lands in Bengal. Old records show that formerly every village in Eastern Bengal had its pasture land. Is it now really impossible for the powerful Government of India to create pasture lands by legislation.

*SANJIVANI*,  
Mar. 20th, 1913.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

28. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March writes that, in the matter of the supply of wagons to the collieries, the East Indian Railway authorities are favouring the European limited companies owning collieries, by supplying them with wagon in plentiful numbers at the expense of the small Indian colliery proprietors who are being starved. For these latter, the "base" has been fixed on the scale for last year, a year when the supply was notoriously inadequate. It thus happens that those whose sidings can accommodate 10 wagons are getting barely one or two. It is all gradually leading to the extinction of the smaller Indian colliery-owner class.

*HITAVADI*,  
Mar. 21st, 1913.

29. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 18th March complains of the extreme lowness of the railway platform in the Goalundo Station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. First and second class passengers are supplied with movable steps for entering into or alighting from trains at the station. But there is no such provision for Inter-class and Third class passengers. Old men and females among these passengers are, therefore, put to great inconvenience. Females often fall down while scaling into or scrambling down trains at the station. The railway authorities are requested to direct their attention to this matter.

*CHARU MIHIR*,  
Mar. 18th, 1913.

(h)—General.

20. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March publishes a sarcastic letter calling in question the value of the titles ending in the word *tirtha* (such as *Vyakarantirtha*, etc..) which the Sanskrit College is now allowed to confer on selected students of its own. *Vyakarantirtha*, for example, is too high a title for a man studying a single *Vyakaran* or Grammar, and passing an examination thereon by answering a few question papers. Then again, there are holders of the title of *Mahamahopadhyaya* utterly lacking in knowledge of the *Dharma Shastras* and incapable of putting two sentences in Sanskrit together orally. Of course *tirtha* has two meanings, one meaning *Guru* or preceptor and another meaning a reservoir. Just as reservoir contains a small quantity of water as required, so probably a *Vyakarantirtha* should be taken to mean a man with a small knowledge only of *Vyakaran*.

*HITAVADI*,  
Mar. 21st, 1913.

Similarly, with the title "Raja". "Raja" literally is one who pleases his subjects, and also one who shines or shows oneself off. In conferring its titles, Government probably takes "Raja" in the latter sense, if it selects men utterly without character and having no people to rule over.



PRABANDHU,  
Mar. 5th, 1913.

31. The *Prajabandhu* [Brahmanberia] of the 5th March urges the necessity, on the part of the Islington Commission, of consulting the opinion of common people, illiterate or literate, as to whom they would like to be their rulers. Living under the benign British Government for more than one and a half century, they have got ample experience to decide what sort of people make the best rulers for them. The Commission's enquiry will be only one-sided if it does not include an enquiry into their view also.

CHINSURA  
VARTAVANA  
Mar. 23rd, 1913.

32. The *Chinsura Vartavana* [Chinsura] of the 23rd March says:—  
It is rumoured that the Public Service Commission which sat some time ago to consider the prospects of Indians in the Public Service, recommended that, of the Divisional Commissioners in Bengal, two should be Indians. We pray Lord Hardinge to carry out this recommendation of the past Commission. There are, at present, in the Bengal Civil Service list, two Indians who are fit to be appointed as officiating Divisional Commissioners, and they are experienced enough to be appointed to such posts as Excise Commissionership, Inspector-Generalship of Police and Chairmanship of the Calcutta Municipality.

MOSLEM HITAISHI,  
Mar. 21st, 1913.

33. The *Moslem Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March would be glad to see a Moslem appointed to act as Judge of the High Court *vice* Mr. Justice D. Chatterjee on leave.

CHARU MINIR,  
Mar. 18th, 1913.

34. The *Charu Minir* [Mymensingh] of the 18th March says:—  
In the mufassal, there is the practice of transferring the lower amla of Government offices from place to place at fixed intervals. But no such practice exists so far as the higher amla are concerned. This is a fruitful source of dissatisfaction among the amla. Arrangements should, therefore, be made for transfers of the higher amla from district to district. This may cause the promotions of some of them to be somewhat impeded, but the class of amla in general will be greatly benefited by it. We hope the Government will carefully consider this matter.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Mar. 20th, 1913.

35. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th March writes that there has been an increase of Rs. 50,000 in the Excise Revenue in Bogra this year. It shows what dire ruin the Excise Department is inflicting on the country. Out of kindness to China, Government has stopped exporting Indian opium there but strangely enough it does not see how its own subjects are being ruined by the use of intoxicants.

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 21st, 1913.

36. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March writes that the authorities now realize that the outlay on the new Delhi will be more than their estimated £4,000,000, and so they are resorting to a most unjust juggling of the accounts. For example, they say that charges for improved Railway terminal facilities at Delhi, or improved Sanitary arrangements for the old Delhi, will be shown under the Railway and sanitary heads of the Budget and not be debited to the cost of the new Delhi. They utterly ignore the fact that these railways or sanitary improvement would not be required if Delhi were not made the Imperial capital.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Mar. 20th, 1913.

37. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th March sarcastically writes that Indians ought not to grudge any outlay on new Delhi, however heavy, for money so spent will benefit all India in the sense that it will keep the Viceroy and his Councillors in good health and thus tend to the advantage of the population of India generally. If the Finance Minister were to fall ill, for example, the finance of the country would fall into confusion. If Sir H. Butler again gets influenza, all educational progress will be at a standstill throughout the country and so forth.

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 21st, 1913.

38. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March writes that the serious complaints it has made from time to time regarding the Government contract for printing stock-forms would not have been possible if there had



been a proper system of auditing accounts of the Government Press. A good auditor could easily have pointed out to Mr. Meikle how his rule about keeping in stock forms for 15 months' use instead of 3 months' would cause loss to Government. He could have pointed out how Government had lost by the recent change in the money-order form. He could have objected to Mr. Meikle's interpreting standing forms to mean type-form, since it meant that more money was to be paid to Rai Shahib Gulab Singh and Sons, than to the old contractors, Messrs. Geo. Allen & Co.

39. Referring to the project of supplying schools, colleges and libraries in Bengal with copies of a newspaper named the "Near East" with a view to enabling Musalmans to know the truth about things that happen in Persia and Turkey, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th March asks, will the Musalmans believe what Arabic and Persian newspapers say or what an English newspaper says? Government is going to throw away a lot of money uselessly.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 20th, 1912.

40. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd March does not think it advisable for the Government to spend a large sum of money in subsidising an unknown newspaper like

BANGAVASI,  
Mar. 22nd, 1912.

the "Near East" out of the fear lest the Balkan war should excite the Musalmans in this country.

41. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd March writes that Lord Morley's scheme of Council reform was meant to conciliate all, and now it turns out by experience to have satisfied nobody. Mr. J. Chaudhuri has recently pointed out, in the Weekly Notes, the defects of the scheme and Mr. Surendra Nath Banerji has echoed his views. Lately, the graduates of the Central Provinces wanted representation on the Council about to be constituted there, but have been told that no such privilege will be given them. A University at Nagpur will be created which will be given a member on the Council, as though new Universities will be created every year. In Calcutta, too, the second seat thrown open to election by Municipal Commissioners has created dissatisfaction. The citizens want to elect their member direct.

BASUMATI,  
Mar. 22nd, 1912.

42. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March writes that the Government of India Resolution dated May of last year, on the financial relations between the Imperial

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 21st, 1912.

Government and the Local Governments, does not by any means foreshadow any increased measure of independence for the provinces, though the despatches regarding the Delhi changes talked large of Provincial autonomy. Local Governments are still to be kept in fetters—they are denied local power of taxation, authority to raise a provincial loan. The only concession made is that fixed assignments have, as far as possible, been commuted into shares of growing revenue. Now it is true that these "divided heads" of revenue are growing slowly, but it is not likely that they will grow much any further. So, the new arrangements are not likely to benefit the Local Governments considerably, unless the Imperial Government makes up its mind to be more unselfish.

43. Referring to the Resolution moved in the Supreme Legislative Council *anent* separation of Judicial and Executive functions, the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 15th March says that, so long as the proposed separation will not be effected, the Indians will remain dissatisfied, and in consequence of this dissatisfaction an estrangement will continue between the rulers and the ruled in the country.

JASOHAR,  
Mar. 15th, 1912.

44. The *Tippera Guide* [Comilla] of the 18th March has the following in English on the subject of the creation of a new subdivision in the Tippera district:—

TIPPERA GUIDE,  
Mar. 18th, 1912.

The proposed new subdivision of the Tippera district. Next, the point is what should be the jurisdiction of such subdivision. In solving this question we should take into consideration that the importance of the Sadar subdivision and the town of Comilla should be maintained as much as possible.

First, we suggest that the portion of Brahmanbaria south of the Buri river from the point it meets the Meghna to Kaliganj Bazar and south of the line (*Hod*) from Kaliganj Bazar to Mogra should be cut off; the area left to



Brahmanbaria then will be equal to that of the Chandpur subdivision. We should then consider how the remaining block is to be divided between the Sadar and the proposed new subdivision. Whether the area under Muradnagar thana should be partitioned between or whether it should be wholly incorporated with either of the Sadar or the new subdivision, is an important question.

If the area west and south of the Buri river, including the Nabinagar village, goes to the new subdivision then the whole of the Muradnagar thana or a large portion of it, might be left with Sadar. The new subdivision will then be composed of Bancharampur, Homna, Daudkandi thana and probably with a portion of Muradnagar thana also.

*SANJIVANI*,  
Mar. 30th, 1913.

45. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th March notices that, while the messages of sympathy that poured on the Indians killed by the Delhi Viceroy and Lady Hardinge from Rajas, Maharajas and so forth after the Delhi outrage contained no reference to the regrettable fate of the Indians who had been killed by the bomb thrown at their Excellencies, the Secretary of State did not, in his reply to the Government of India's letter to him on the subject, fail to express sorrow at their death.

*HITAVADI*,  
Mar. 21st, 1913.

46. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March refers to the recent Brindaban shooting case, and remarks that the way in which the case has been disposed of has impaired the value of the official assurances that the religious susceptibilities of the people will never be hurt. The soldier accused in the case was given a chair in Court and not handcuffed, and when he was let off the Magistrate remarked, "You have done no more than you ought to do."

It would be best if Government enforces sections 2 and 3 of Act VII of 1912 in the Braja country, and forbids all shooting of birds and beasts here.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

*BASUMATI*,  
Mar. 22nd, 1913.

47. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd March believes that the new Company law will do something to stop fraudulent tricks in regard to company management by irresponsible people.

*NAYAK*,  
Mar. 20th, 1913.

48. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 20th March doubts how far the small amendment of the Bengal Gambling Act now pending in the Bengal Council, will be efficacious in baffling the ingenuity of would-be gamblers, ever ready to devise new forms of gambling.

The paper also cannot understand the difference recognized in the proposed law between betting on race horses on the race course and betting on horse races elsewhere. Now, the law proposes to stop gambling because it is injurious to the people. So let betting on horse racing be made illegal also. Lots of examples may be adduced where this form of betting has proved a source of ruin to people. Probably a better way of dealing with this evil of gambling in all forms than by new legislation would be to take steps to warn would-be gamblers against being robbed of their all when they are about to enter a gambling den. We believe this will be a more practical way of dealing with the evil than framing new laws in which evil men are to try their ingenuity in picking holes. And if new laws there are to be, let them be drastic enough to touch all immorality at its source. Let there be no discrimination permitted between one form of immorality and another. That is why we favour a very drastic anti-gambling law.

*HITAVADI*,  
Mar. 21st, 1913.

49. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March appeals to the Government of Bengal to postpone the proposed and pending legislation regarding the Calcutta Municipal Sinking Fund. The ratepayers of course want the Municipal loans to be repaid, but money should be found for that purpose by retrenchment of wasteful expenditure. Instead, however, they are threatened with a further load of taxation on their already overburdened shoulders. Further, if more money is to be saved than now to repay loans, many necessary



schemes of improvement will have to be indefinitely postponed. In view of all these, non-official Members of Council want this Bill to be taken up with the general question of amending the Municipal Act. No case for hurry has been made out by Government for this Bill.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

50. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March writes that the prices of food-grains are now rising all over India, instead of dwindling as they should. The poor are already

HITAVADI.  
Mar. 21st, 1913.

Prices of food-grains. in sore straits. It is not known what steps Government is taking to alleviate their sufferings. Considerable relief might have been afforded by the heavy surplus this year which Government has reaped, but it has to be spent on building new Delhi. So the look out for the masses is gloomy indeed.

It is a pity that in spite of its heavy surplus, Government should be so niggardly in granting the grain compensation allowance to its employees. Formerly, all its servants with salaries of Rs. 30 and less were allowed this allowance, but this time only employees drawing Rs. 12 or less have been granted this concession. And the amount of the allowance has been reduced from a rupee and a half to a rupee only.

Apprehension of famine in the Mymensingh district.

51. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 18th March says:—

CHAR MIHIR,  
Mar. 18th, 1913.

The price of rice is gradually rising in the Mymensingh district. Daily hundreds of maunds of the commodity are being exported. Every one is apprehending that there will be a famine in the district this year.

52. The *Gour Dut* [Malda] of the 17th March says that, owing to the partial failure of the paddy crop, famine is inevitable in the Malda district.

GOUR DUT.  
Mar. 17th, 1913.

Prospect of famine in the Malda district.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

53. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 20th March asks those who are now

NAYAK.  
Mar. 20th, 1913.

An appeal to Bomb-throwers sending explosives through the post office or hurling them at Railway trains or at the Viceroy's person, what they expect to gain by such courses. If they have any deep object in view, will it be accomplished by such mean devices? Righteousness can never be based on sin. Sin can only lead to further sin. Why are these men encompassing the ruin of their fellow-countrymen by acting like this?

54. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 10th March urges the political leaders of the country, as well as all guardians and teachers, to take special care to bring back misguided youths to the path of modesty and discipline and enable them to build their character in the right way.

JYOTI.  
Mar. 10th, 1913.

"How to remove the unrest in the country?"

55. The *Faridpur Hitaishi* [Faridpur] of the 11th March expresses satisfaction that Hindus are showing sincere sympathy with the Musalman sufferers in the Balkan war, and helping them with money and labour.

FARIDPUR HITAIISHI.  
Mar. 11th, 1913.

Hindus sympathising with Musalmans.

The writer next says that, in the present grave danger facing the Musalman race, the Hindus should forget the feeling of enmity which has prevailed between their community and Musalmans for more than a thousand years, and which even the other day caused serious friction between them in connection with the *swadeshi* agitation.

56. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th March writes mock-

ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA,  
Mar. 20th 1913.

"The height of civilization." ingly that Indians are verily making progress in western civilization. Signs of this developing civilization are the advent of the new disease known by the name of *Feranga* (syphilis)



to Indian medical men, the growing litigiousness of the people and their increasing use of intoxicants. As if all this is not sufficient, Sir R. Craddock assures us that the introduction of the new Conspiracy Bill is also due to the advancing civilization of the country. Now remain only two things more, viz., a liberal system of divorce and suffragette demonstrations, and when India has these, she will verily have risen to the highest pitch of civilization.

RAJENDRA CHANDRA SASTRI,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE;

*The 29th March 1913.*



# REPORT (PART II)

ON

## NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

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CONFIDENTIAL

# REPORT

## NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

Week ending 24th March 1947

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**LIST OF NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS RECEIVED AND DEALT WITH  
BY THE BENGAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.**

*[As it stood on 1st June 1912.]*

| No. | Name of Publication.                  | Where published.                          | Edition.           | Name, caste and age of Editor.  | Circulation.   |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------|---|----------------|
| 1   | "Amrita Bazar Patrika"                | Calcutta                                  | Daily              | Kali Prasanna Chatterji, age 48, Brahmin  | 1,500 to 4,000 |
| 2   | "Bengalee" ...                        | Ditto                                     | Do.                | Surendra Nath Banerji and Kali Nath Roy.  | 6,500 to 8,500 |
| 3   | "Hindoo Patriot"                      | Ditto                                     | Do.                | Srish Chandra Sarbadhikari, age 44, and Kailash Chandra Kanjilal, pleader, Small Cause Court, also contributes. | 800 to 1,000   |
| 4*  | "Indian Echo"                         | Ditto                                     | Weekly             | Kunja Behary Bose, age 45, Kayastha...  | 600            |
| 5   | "Indian Empire"                       | Ditto                                     | Do.                | Kishori Mohan Banerji and H. Dutt   | 2,000          |
| 6   | "Indian Mirror"                       | Ditto                                     | Daily              | Satyendra Nath Sen  | 1,000 to 1,500 |
| 7   | "Indian Nation"                       | Ditto                                     | Weekly             | Naresh Chandra Sarbadhikari and Srish Chandra Sarbadhikari.   | 1,300          |
| 8   | "Mussalman"                           | Ditto                                     | Do.                | A. Rasul and M. Rahman  | 1,000 to 1,500 |
| 9   | "Reis and Bayyet"                     | Ditto                                     | Do.                | Jogesh Chandra Dutt, age 61 years   | 400            |
| 10  | "Telegraph"                           | Ditto                                     | Do.                | Satyendra Kumar Bose  | 2,000          |
| 11  | "Herald"                              | Dacca                                     | Do.                | Priyo Nath Sen  | ...            |
| 12  | "East"                                | Do.                                       | Bi-weekly          | .....   | .....          |
| 13  | "World's Messenger" ...               | No. 18, Kali Prasad Chakrabarty's Street. | Monthly (English). | Raghu Probir Mitra (Hindu), age 22 years.   | 100 copies.    |
| 14  | "Current Indian Cases" (a law paper). | No. 1-1, College Square, East.            | Ditto              | Monindra Nath Mitter and Brothers (Kayastha), age 32 years.   | Ditto.         |

\* Has not been published for the last six months, and most probably it will not be published again.



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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

356. It will be no exaggeration, writes the *Indian Mirror*, to say that the whole of the civilized world has been stunned with horror and grief by the news of the assassination of King George I of Greece. Those in the British Empire have particular cause to lament the tragedy, as the unfortunate victim was related to one of the most esteemed and popular members of the Royal House of England—Her Majesty the Queen-Mother. The late King of the Hellenes was the second son of King Christian IX of Denmark, and was thus a brother of Queen Alexandra. The sympathy of the Indian public goes out to Her Majesty Queen Alexandra at the loss of her beloved brother. The tragedy enacted at Salonica resembles all the other tragedies of which crowned heads and distinguished statesmen have been victims. The murderer is a degenerate, suffering from mental derangement. He has avowed himself to be a Socialist, and has refused to assign any reason for his diabolical deed. The manner in which the deed was committed is typical of all anarchical outrages.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
21st Mar. 1913.

357. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* recounts the several reasons why the cruel and tragic assassination of the King of Greece has caused a peculiar shock to the Indian communities. In the first place, these anarchist and socialist outrages on society and humanity are quite foreign to them. Even the West, the birthplace and happy hunting ground of such crimes, cannot bear such shocks complacently. How much more so should it be in the case of a people who are constitutionally averse to such bloodthirsty deeds? Then, His late Majesty George I, being very nearly related to King George V of England, was not quite an alien to Indians. Again, his confidence in his subjects which made him refuse, in spite of repeated requests, the presence of body-guards, as well as the pathetic suddenness and unexpectedness of the attack on him, invest the sad incident with a certain tragic halo which will make the world look upon him as one of the crowned martyrs of Europe.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
24th Mar. 1913.

358. For the first time since the resumption of hostilities news of a very sensational character reaches the *Bengalee* from the war-front. According to the Special Correspondent of a contemporary, news has been received that the first and second lines of the Adrianople defences have been captured and that both sides have sustained heavy losses. A Reuter telegram from Sofia seems to confirm this report. A general attack upon all the advanced positions at Adrianople, says the telegram, resulted in all the fortified points on the eastern side being carried by assault. This is undoubtedly very bad news from the point of view of Turkey and, if true, shows that the fall of Adrianople is a question of days. Everything will now depend upon what action the Powers may choose to take. They have taken up a firm and decisive attitude in regard to the question of a war indemnity. If they will take up an equally firm attitude in regard to the maintenance of Turkish interests in Adrianople a settlement may yet be arrived at which, having regard to the actual state of things, may not be unacceptable to Turkey.

BENGALUR,  
27th Mar. 1913.

359. The *Bengalee* observes that according to the *Daily Telegraph's* Vienna correspondent fresh cases are reported of horrible atrocities by Montenegrins and Servians in Albania. Wholesale outrages on women, says the correspondent, are reported after the massacre of men, and old men and women have been burnt alive. And these are the men who have been complaining loudly of Turkish oppression and who professed their anxiety to free the people inhabiting that part of Europe from the curse of Turkish misrule! It is extraordinary that civilised Europe should practically turn a deaf ear to the cry of distress that has gone forth. It is not enough merely to make representations to the so called proper authorities. What is necessary is to appoint an international committee to hold an open enquiry into the allegations and to secure the punishment of the guilty.

BENGALUR,  
28th Mar. 1913.



## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

HERALD,  
20th Mar. 1913.

360. The *Herald* understands the Conference authorities are experiencing great difficulty in raising a body of volunteers for service in connection with the ensuing Conference owing to an excess of zeal on the part of the local police which is wholly unwarranted. The police, it seems, have suddenly roused themselves just to make their presence felt, not, as some blundering men might suppose, by hunting the dakaitis, but by making enquiries about the intending volunteers, their names, homes, occupations, etc. Surely this is one of those inscrutable ways of the police which no ordinary mortal can appreciate. The journal hopes the Inspector-General of Police, in writing his next report, will take due notice of this latest development in the police method in dealing with this prospective gang of political dakaitis. For are they not—the paper means these intending volunteers—really so? At any rate that is evidently how they appear to the police. “*Samiti*” as everybody knows, is a bad word and “volunteer” is worse; so the Conference and the volunteers—what a dangerous lot they are!

TELEGRAPH,  
22nd Mar. 1913.

361. The *Telegraph* asks if any of the Hon'ble Members of Council—of course elected or non-official members—care to interpellate the Government on the subject of political suspects? Any one who does this would surely deserve well of the country and do a public service of no mean magnitude. What is first wanted is a return showing the number of such suspects, their names, the nature of their offences or suspicion against them, etc. It may be urged that this sort of information is classed “confidential” and so beyond the reach of mischief-making Members of Council or the prying public. But such a plea, which appears to be without any bottom, cannot be satisfactory. If the Government has any suspicions against anybody, the least that justice would demand is that the latter should be offered every opportunity to meet them and explain his conduct. No one wishes to remain under a cloud, and none should be so kept without facilities being given them to clear it up. Such a practice would be in harmony with the prestige and reputation of the great English nation. The journal does not suppose that the publication of such a return would in any way interfere with the proper control, by the police, of political suspects. It would not certainly give away the show, because those who are suspects are fully aware of the fact. Nay most of them, if not all, know by whom they are followed or shadowed, so that the publication of their names cannot possibly add to the troubles of the police. On the other hand, such a course would enable the public to know who are suspects and keep many away from associating with them if there be really good grounds of suspicion against them. Indeed, Government might in this case do away with the cost of maintaining a perfect army of informers and shadowers, who practically do no good but often are unnecessary burdens on the public exchequer. The charge levelled by the authorities against the public, of want of co-operation with the police is utterly groundless and untenable. If there be no such co-operation, it is because the public do not know who are dangerous or on whom to keep an eye. In England and other European countries the police are in no way as close and reticent as here. They gladly avail themselves of the services of the newspapers, with the result that the entire public know the criminals, their names, ways and habits, and every hand is raised against them. Criminals have therefore to fight not merely the few thousand police officers, but the millions of their law-abiding countrymen. It is for these reasons that the journal urges on the Government to take the public into confidence and not to alienate public sympathy by injudicious reticence. At present very little practical good is being done by the procedure adopted by the police; only the gulf between the rulers and the ruled is being unconsciously widened to a dangerous extent, for nothing but sympathy and confidence should exist between the two communities. *Apropos* of the question of political suspects arises the one of those who might have been implicated in political cases, but have since been reprieved, released on parole or discharged from jail.



Unfortunately the number of such individuals in all parts of the country would amount to a pretty large figure. These unfortunate creatures are now in such a tight position that they are apt to be goaded to fresh offences. They have become veritable footballs to kick at by any and every police officer; while informers, having nothing better to do, are always busy fabricating sensational reports about their alleged and imaginary doings, as much to earn their wages as to keep up the fire of unrest. Indeed, if current reports are true, these men have absolutely no means of earning an honest livelihood. No one would employ them, and if any person were bold enough to do so, he would find so much pressure upon him as to give them a wide berth. Now is this the best way of reclaiming and weaning them from dangerous ways? Government should exert its influence to find suitable employment for these misguided youths, as much for their benefit as for its own safety. Employment would not only be their best cure, but would facilitate watch on their future career. The journal makes this suggestion for the kind consideration of and acceptance by the responsible rulers, not because it wishes to put a premium on crime, but because it believes that prevention is better than cure. As matters now stand, these youths form a dangerous and discontented crew, whom there no other plausible means of keeping under proper control.

362. Commenting on the following question asked by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Saran Das in the Punjab Legislative Council:—"Has the attention of Government been drawn to the continued prevalence of serious crime in the province, especially dakaiti and murder?"

The prevalence of serious crime, especially dakaiti and murder, in the Province.

the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that the Punjab Government have attempted rigorous working of the criminal laws, vigorous prosecution of cases, and posting of punitive police! In other words, all the steps but those that will go to the very root of the evil have been taken, viz., providing the people with firearms to enable them to protect themselves as well as improving the detective ability of the police. By the bye, the journal finds that the distinguished Sriyut Aswini K. Datta also has pleaded for the helpless villagers in the following words in his presidential speech at the late Provincial Conference:—"It is, by all means, advisable that, under proper safeguards, these villagers should be given firearms and trained to use them for defence." Indeed, if the real culprits are given to understand that they have got an unarmed people and an unskilled police to deal with, what will be the result? Why, they will carry on their depredations on society practically unchecked as in East Bengal, and the police, to save their faces, will challan whomever they can lay their hands on; and rigorous working of the law and vigorous prosecution cannot, after all, always atone for hauling up the wrong parties. The same stereotyped remedies, have, in fact, been tried and found lamentably wanting in East Bengal.

363. Referring to the case of Sub-Inspector Kailash Chandra Chakrabarti, late of the Bengal Police Service, who was rather abruptly discharged from the service by the Inspector-General, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*

Sub-Inspector Kailash Chandra Chakrabarti, late of the Bengal Police.

says that his only fault was that he had sought his protection against the systematically harsh treatment meted out to him by his superior officer, the District Superintendent of Police, Jalpaiguri. Babu Kailash Chandra had, after his order of discharge, memorialized the Governor in Council for a reconsideration of his case, but to his ill-luck, the Bengal Government refused to do so. He has now taken the only step open to him, namely, to memorialize the Viceroy. And if the journal again takes up his case it is because it is convinced from a perusal of all the papers connected with his case that there was hardly, if ever, a case which more merited His Excellency's clement consideration. Fancy his official superior would not grant him leave, although his very life was at stake. On the other hand, he seemed determined from the very beginning, as the papers of his case undoubtedly go to show, to keep him tethered to the noxious climate of the place and actually threatened him with dire consequences if he again applied for leave, although he had not availed himself of any leave for the last five years and two successive Civil Surgeons had testified to his physical unfitness for work. But there may come a stage in the life of a chronic invalid when even the displeasure of an irate

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
26th Mar. 1913.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
28th Mar. 1913.



superior cannot prevent him from seeking a way to escape a premature grave, and so the unfortunate gentleman was forced to the Hobson's choice of applying to the Inspector-General for even leave without pay to give him a chance to save his life, with the result stated above. If His Excellency the Viceroy be graciously pleased to go into his case, he will no doubt be satisfied that the unfortunate memorialist before him had been more sinned against than sinning all along the line. Here is an educated gentleman coming of a respectable family, cast adrift into the wide world burdended with a large number of dependants and after 15 years of arduous and approved service, in the course of which he had gained rewards, promotion, and good-service marks. And this for no fault of his own, but the heartlessness of his official superior. Indeed, the conduct of the Superintendent of Police has been such as to fill all reasonable minds with surprise and indignation at the hard-heartedness he could show to an unfortunate subordinate.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

HERALD,  
19th Mar. 1913.

364. The *Herald* is sure that if the example set by the Magistrate of Birbhum is to be followed by other Magistrates of the country to any large extent, there would undoubtedly be a large falling off in the number of law suits that bring many a noble family to the brink of ruin. "In Birbhum sadar and mufassal," the journal rejoices to learn from the *Birbhum Barta*, "law suits of all descriptions have been decreasing. It appears as if the *Hakims* in the Suri courts are about to fall asleep in this spring. The District Magistrate is settling many cases in the mufassal amicably, while certain *Hakims* are advising parties to settle their suits by arbitration." All honour to the Birbhum *Hakims* who are thus trying to cut down litigation in their district, but why cannot the Government make other Magistrates also do the same? To endeavour to free the country from ruinous litigation ought surely to be one of the main duties of the Magistrates.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
25th Mar. 1913.

The Bench and the Bar—an undignified scene enacted at Bagirhat.

365. It goes without saying, remarks the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, that the undignified scene enacted at Bagirhat is regretted by all, more so by those who directly took part in it. This is natural, considering their high social position,—a highly-placed official like a Munsif ranging on one side and a number of pleaders on the other. That being so, it is most desirable that the quarrel should be settled out of court, and the journal is glad to find that the District Judge of Khulna, who held a local inquiry into the matter, is of the same view. It is sincerely hoped that he will be successful in bringing about an amicable settlement of the affair in the interests of all the parties concerned. The saying is, that it requires at least two palms to produce a clap, and it is just likely that, if the matter were allowed to drift into the law-courts, some unseemly disclosures implicating both the parties might be brought to light. The District Judge, then, is the only person who is expected to prevent this washing of dirty linen before the public. It is a bad day, indeed, when the Bench and the Bar, instead of helping one another in the administration of justice, as their legitimate function, should fight in a law-court like common folk. It will not surely redound to the credit or dignity of the parties, besides disorganising public work and causing inconvenience to the public.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
28th Mar. 1913.

Babu Hari Nath Ray as the successor of Mr. D. Chatarji.

366. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* congratulates Babu Hari Nath Ray, Judge of the Small Cause Court, Calcutta, on his elevation to the High Court Bench as the successor of Mr. Justice Digambar Chatarji during his absence on leave. The journal has referred off and on to the singular record of Mr. Ray's great abilities, based on the testimony of the High Court and the Privy Council, in the discharge of his official duties, and it goes without saying that he fitly deserves the honour done to him. A man, however, is to be judged by his acts, and it has yet to be seen if Mr. Ray will fulfil the high expectations formed of him by his countrymen. But whether he proves a success or a



failure, there is no doubt that his appointment has given a lift to the Sub-ordinate Judicial Service of which he has been an ornament.

367. The *Bengalee* does not know if the Chief Justice is aware that great

Constitution of Benches in the High Court.

public dissatisfaction has been caused by the construction of the Benches of the High Court, especially on the Appellate Side. Lawyers and

laymen alike have often wondered during the past few months what could have been responsible for such unhappy combinations of Judges. Was it an anxiety to ensure a speedy disposal of cases,—an effective “clearance of the file,” as they call it, or,—as one of the Judges publicly declared from his place on the Bench,—a desire for a more extended application of the “short-work” standard which would rid the Court of much of its congestion? Regular appeals, or appeals from original decrees, as every one acquainted with the High Court knows, have always been regarded as of sufficient importance to deserve and engage the attention of the most careful and patient Judges in the Court, so that whatever might be the result, the parties might at least have the satisfaction of feeling that they had the fullest and fairest hearing in the highest court in the land. Unfortunately, however, this important class of appeals has been left in charge of a Bench in connection with whose decisions the journal shall ask the Chief Justice himself to recall some of the remarks which have been applied to them before his own court when hearing applications for leave to appeal to His Majesty in Council. It is apt to be forgotten sometimes by the Judges themselves as well as by litigants that the High Court is a court of justice and law combined, where parties come for a patient and thorough adjudication of their rights and interests. It is of the highest importance that those who have the honour and prestige of the highest tribunal in the country in their keeping should always have before them the highest ideal of duty, absolutely unconnected with any considerations other than those of not merely doing justice, but also of making the people feel that justice has been done. Considerations like those which arise from a desire to relieve the congestion of work in the Court, however laudable elsewhere, ought to be absolutely eschewed here. Then, again, turning to the Criminal Side of the Court, the paper thinks that the public have a right to expect that some of the best Judges of the Court should preside over it. The liberty of the subject is in the keeping of the Judges taking this Bench, and it is of the utmost importance that its *personnel* should be of the strongest character. It is a wonder why Sir Lawrence Jenkins should need being reminded of this. Does not His Lordship know how largely the prestige and good name of the Court are bound up with the constitution of this important Bench,—how largely, in fact, it is in the power of this Bench to make or mar the reputation of the High Court as an institution? So high is the esteem in which Sir Lawrence Jenkins is held by the people, so deep and abiding is the reverence all feel towards him, that it is with the utmost sorrow and pain that the paper makes these remarks. But this is a matter of such vast importance that it could not help breaking the silence it has kept so long.

BENGALIAN.  
23rd Mar. 1913.

(d)—Education.

368. The *Mussalman*

Degradation of Maulvi Abdul Karim, B.A., Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division.

thinks that the lowering of the status of Maulvi Abdul Karim, B.A., Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division, after about a quarter of a century's meritorious service, has very rightly caused a feeling of deep resentment in the Muhammadan community. The only fault of the Maulvi is that he is thoroughly honest, independent, and straightforward, and unfortunately these are commodities of which the market value is very low in this generation. The Maulvi is about to retire from Government service, so the degradation will not affect him much pecuniarily. Moreover, his conduct as a public servant and an educational officer has secured for him the admiration, the esteem, and the regard of his countrymen and co-religionists, and so his degradation in official status will not lower him in the least in the estimation of his fellow-countrymen. It is, however, a great pity that the authorities thought it fit to lower

MUSSALMAN.  
21st Mar. 1913.



his status without holding any enquiry, apparently on the interested reports of persons with whom Maulvi Abdul Karim could not perhaps pull on well on account of his independence. It may be that he incurred the displeasure of some of the high officials themselves for the same reason. However, the public hold that the degradation is quite unjustifiable, and unless Government comes forward to explain the situation and give satisfactory reasons for this action, the opinion they hold will certainly be confirmed. If no satisfactory explanation be forthcoming, the conclusion would be that honesty and independence are at a discount in Government service.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
25th Mar. 1913.

369. The *Indian Mirror* cannot understand the policy of appointing Europeans to the posts of Inspectors of primary and middle class vernacular schools. If Frenchmen or Germans with as little knowledge of the English language and English manners were appointed Inspectors of primary education in England or Scotland, the Government of the day would be turned out in 24 hours by the British people. But the Englishmen and Scotsmen when they come to India do not see the absurdity of their fellow-countrymen with no knowledge of the vernacular, which they cannot pronounce properly, speak properly, and write properly, being appointed Inspectors of primary and middle vernacular schools. When will the absurdity cease?

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BENGALEE,  
28th Mar. 1913.

370. The disposal of tenders for Ward improvements by the General Committee of the Corporation has, the *Bengalee* writes, caused dissatisfaction. If the tenders were disposed of according to the lowest quotations, there would be no room for complaint. On this principle at the last General Committee meeting, Rai Surendra Nath Mitra Bahadur proposed a list of lowest tenderers and submitted it for acceptance. But the list has been referred to the Chief Engineer for consideration. The Chief Engineer will be perfectly justified in removing the name of any undesirable contractor, but if the principle of accepting the lowest tender be altogether ignored, the Chief Engineer will be raising considerable difficulties. The cry of favouritism would be raised, and people would conclude that only influential contractors, who could secure patronage, succeeded in getting work from the Corporation. As there is considerable dissatisfaction outside, the journal hopes the Chairman will himself look into the matter.

(f)—Questions affecting the Land.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
27th Mar. 1913.

371. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the Agricultural Department has evidently for its object the improving of the agriculture of the country in various ways, such as by introducing scientific methods, etc. But, so far as the outside public are concerned, all they know about it, is that the department maintains some princely-paid officials, imported from England, who have been making researches year after year, while the fruit of their labours sees light now and then in some learned articles, not intelligible to the layman, in what is called "The Agricultural Journal of India," or in some other official reports. Referring to it, *Capital* once complained—and in this it very correctly represented the views of the Indian public—that if the agricultural experts, instead of entirely devoting their whole time and energies to researches, devoted a portion of it to some agricultural experiments of a practical nature, the money spent for the maintenance of the department would produce some tangible return and would sustain a ray of public hope. The journal is glad, therefore, to see that the well-known townsman, Mr. B. Chakrabarti, who has practical mufassal experience, and who has some knowledge of agriculture too, has taken on himself the task of interpellating on the subject and thereby eliciting information about the Department and its doings, which are now closed to the



outside public. One of his questions drew out the fact that, out of the total expenditure in the Agricultural department in 1912-13, amounting to Rs. 3,03,000, Rs. 1,70,000 will be swallowed up for the maintenance of the department. One need hardly be told that very solid work can be done in the shape of agricultural improvement by spending the balance. As the question of agriculture is one in which the bulk of the people are vitally interested, Mr. B. Chakrabarti will be doing a great service to the people if he pursues the subject with vigour in putting further questions on the subject and making the Government realize that the department demands far more liberal treatment at its hands than it does now, and that something more than mere researches are necessary to satisfy the people.

(h)—General.

372. It is understood, says a Delhi correspondent to the *Bengalee*, that a unanimously signed representation by all non-official members of the Imperial Council was presented to the Viceroy before his departure for Dehra Dun, praying for an extension of the term of office of Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson as Finance Member of the Government of India. The correspondent rightly states that this is a unique compliment paid to an official member by his non-official colleagues; and he might have added that it is a compliment which is fully deserved. There is not the least doubt that Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson is one of the best Finance Members India has had, but it is not merely as an able Finance Minister that he is held in high respect by his colleagues and the public generally, but because he adds to his other great qualities a sympathy for the people of India and their aspirations which is perfectly genuine. The journal has no hesitation in saying that the action of the non-official members in this case has the complete support of public opinion. It is only hoped the Secretary of State will accord that sympathetic consideration to the representation of the non-official members to which it is clearly entitled.

BENGALUR,  
22nd Mar. 1913.

373. The *Bengalee* thinks that the non-official members of the Imperial Legislative Council did their duty in paying their tribute of appreciation and praise to Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson for his great and eminent services to the country. One of the speakers at the last meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council truly said that he was among the ablest and the most sympathetic of Indian Finance Ministers, whose outlook extended beyond the range of his own particular department and whose sympathies, deep as they were, were co-extensive with the entire circle of the varied and multitudinous interests of India. He did not confine himself to matters financial, but as a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council he felt a deep interest in all problems affecting the welfare of the country and his sympathies were always in favour of progress and economy. It is an open secret that the non-official Indian members of the Council addressed a communication to the Viceroy for the extension of his period of office. The communication will be forwarded to the Secretary of State, but it is hoped the public bodies will not be wanting in their duty by strengthening the hands of their representatives and addressing the Secretary of State on the subject. Nothing could have been conceived in finer spirit or more eloquently expressed than the noble sentences in which Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson bore testimony to the highly trustworthy character of the Indian officials serving under him, from the highest to the lowest. He said that if the secret of the taxation which he had to impose some time before had been let out, it would have meant millions to the man who broke the confidence, but he added that the Indian officials from the highest rung of the official ladder to the commonest compositor in the printing department so strictly maintained the confidence reposed in them that the secret never went beyond those to whom it was entrusted. Indians may well be proud of the character given to them by one who has had the best opportunities of knowing them. There was another fact to which he bore testimony, and to which it is necessary to draw pointed attention, namely, that in the higher

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atmosphere of the Government of India there is no such thing as racial feeling. It has always been held that "the higher we mount the purer becomes the atmosphere." It were much to be wished that this attitude maintained by those highest in authority penetrated to the subordinate ranks of the Civil Service and leavened them with its leaven.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
22nd Mar. 1913.

374. That the past five years' Governorship of Bombay stands out boldly in the history of Indian administration, as constituting a period of strenuous work and toil and of sympathetic and wise statesmanship, is, the

*Indian Mirror* is sure, the general verdict of the Indian public. The feeling expressed at the last meeting of the Bombay Legislative Council and at the public meeting held under the presidency of Sir Basil Scott, can leave no room for doubt that Lord Sydenham leaves Bombay amidst the regret of all classes of the public. Lord Sydenham has been the oldest of the Indian Governors. Since he assumed the Governorship of Bombay, there have been changes in the Viceroyalty and in all the Provincial Governorships. The trend of the Indian administration has also undergone a change, first by the introduction of the "Reforms," and secondly, by the gracious declarations made by His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor. On Lord Sydenham, more than on any other ruler, has devolved the arduous task of setting the new machinery in motion; and the general testimony is that he is going to lay down his office after a brilliant and successful career. For strength of character, for courage of conviction, and for spiritual fortitude, Lord Sydenham is rivalled by few.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
28th Mar. 1913.

375. Mr. R. S. Finlow, Fibre Expert, Bengal, is allowed combined leave for fifteen months from 2nd April next. From a statement put before the Council, in reply to a question by the Hon'ble Mr. B. Chakrabarti, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* gathers the following particulars regarding Mr. Finlow's pay, qualifications, etc. He is a B.Sc., F.C.S., and a fibre expert. The pay attached to his post is Rs. 500-1,000. Information on the following points regarding him will prove interesting and instructive to the Indian payers:—What is the present pay of Mr. Finlow? How long has he been in service and what actual fruits have his labours brought forth? What officiating arrangements will be made during his absence?

### III.—LEGISLATION.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
20th Mar. 1913.

376. So the Hon'ble Mr. M. S. Das, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, is playing the rôle of *Advocatus diaboli* to perfection. Whenever there is any measure that goes against popular interests, he is sure to support it; and conversely, whenever there is anything that may damage popular interests, he is as sure to oppose it. Really he is progressing very fast, and developing into an Indian edition of Sir J. Rees. He signalled his acceptance of the above rôle at Bankipur when, as President of the Students' Conference, he revelled in all sorts of bellicose adjectives against the *swadeshi* movement. Since then he has vastly improved upon his new character by being translated to the Imperial Council. He pleaded for the abnormal appetite of the "baby province" and tried to filch some more morsels from the mouths of its elder brother, Bengal, which had so long supported ungrudgingly all the Biharis, Uriyas, and Sonthals comprised in it; in fact it is still supporting them, and its very capital contains, according to the recent census, over two lakhs of the natives of the "baby province," the *Uria palki*-bearers and carpenters forming not an inconsiderable proportion of these. He followed up by opposing the amendment of Babu Surendra Nath for referring the Conspiracy Bill to the High Courts and public bodies. Then he showed his fidelity to the *nemak* of the public, whom he ostensibly serves by being the only Indian member who opposed the 5 per cent. protective duty on sugar proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Sriram. Lastly, the Hon'ble Mr. R. Chariar's comments on the report of the Select Committee on the Conspiracy Bill acted on his nerves like a veritable red rag and he brandished his horns fearfully as soon as he heard his dear Select Committee's doings



animadverted on by a popular member. The journal does not know how its Bihar friends are feeling just now at these repeated somersaults of their august representative in the Imperial Council.

377. The Hon'ble Mr. M. S. Das is the representative of the non-official members of the Bihar Legislative Council on the Viceroy's Legislative Council, but evidently, the *Bengalee* remarks, in his public utterances Mr. Das sometimes represents nobody excepting himself.

Mr. M. S. Das, representative of the non-official members of the Bihar Legislative Council on the Viceroy's Council.

He certainly did not represent his province when he gave his unqualified support to the Conspiracy Bill and seemed to resent any criticism of that measure even from other non-official members. Nor did he represent the sentiment or opinion of his province when, in the course of his evidence before the Public Services Commission at Bankipur, he said what no other Indian with any pretence to a representative character had said before him, namely, that simultaneous examinations were not suited to Indian conditions. Communal bias raging high, said the witness, would make it very undesirable. This contention, the absurdity of which needs no demonstration, has from time time been put forward by extremist Anglo-Indian journals. But this is the first time that it has been urged by an Indian in the position of Mr. Madhusudan Das. There was a time when some short-sighted Muhammadans used to oppose simultaneous examinations on this ridiculous ground. But they have now outgrown that stage, as they were bound to do with the progress of education among them, and to-day there is practically a perfect unanimity of opinion among all sections of the Indian community, Hindu and Muhammadan, in regard to the supreme importance and urgency of the suggested reform. Mr. Madhusudan Das's opposition to the proposal can only show that in regard to some questions of the greatest public importance his views are not those of the community whom he is supposed to represent.

378. The Government of Bengal are to be congratulated, writes the *Bengalee*, on the introduction into the Legislative Council of a Bill to amend the law in force relating to public gambling so as to take power effectively to suppress cotton-gambling and other cognate evils. The demand for the suppression of cotton-gambling was all but universal, when the Government stepped in with the Ordinance which it is now proposed to place permanently on the Statute Book. That one of the very first measures to be brought before the new Legislative Council would be a measure dealing with cotton-gambling was generally known, and the Government themselves made a declaration to that effect. Now that the measure has been introduced, the journal notes with pleasure that it is somewhat more comprehensive than was anticipated. As the Hon'ble Dr. Sarvadhicary and the Hon'ble Mr. Chakrabarti pointed out, however, the scope of the Bill might and, indeed, ought to have been still more comprehensive. Betting on race courses, when a race is going on, is expressly exempted from the scope of the Bill. Whether such exemption is proper and justifiable as a matter of principle is perhaps an open question. In any case, as Dr. Sarvadhicary pointed out, the race course offers a vaster field than the Turf Club stewards can cope with, and people coming in that direction from Kalighat and Bhawanipur are asked to bet on the result of the races, not in the enclosure supervised by the Turf Club stewards, but everywhere around the race course, and much serious mischief is done. What the Hon'ble Member suggested, and the same view was expressed by the Hon'ble Mr. Chakrabarti, was that the Select Committee should, as far as was practicable, reduce the evil of betting in connection with the races to a minimum and make it impossible for any one to bet outside the race enclosure. When the races were going on, said Mr. Chakrabarti, they found poor people who had no business to be there at all outside the enclosure betting. If there are rich people in the country who are anxious to part with a portion of their superfluous wealth or to relieve others like them of a portion of their wealth, let them go on doing it. Let the legislature, at any rate, do all it can to protect the poor, the ignorant, and the unwary.

379. The resolutions moved in the Bengal Legislative Council, on Friday, the 14th March by the Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri and the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem, go to indicate, asserts the *Mussalman*, that the Hon'ble Members, in common with the community they represented, felt that the needs of Muhammadan

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27th Mar. 1913.

BENGALIAN,  
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MUSALMAN,  
31st Mar. 1913.

MUSALMAN,  
31st Mar. 1913.

Resolutions in the Bengal Council regarding Muhammadan education.



education were not receiving as much attention at the hands of Government as they ought to have. The Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri moved that a substantial sum out of the Imperial educational grant and a fair amount out of the recurring grant be applied towards providing better facilities for Muhammadan education. The Government accepted it and it was passed. The Hon'ble Mr. Kitchler, the Director of Public Instruction, in the course of a lengthy speech in reply, said that as the mover had not asked for the allotment of any definite sum, but had merely asked for a substantial contribution, and as the resolution was in general terms which were, he said, in entire accordance with the policy of the Government, there could be no objection on the part of the Government to the acceptance of the resolution. The journal is thankful to the Hon'ble Mover for putting his resolution, as well as to the Government for accepting it, but at the same time, to speak frankly, the paper has very little faith in pious resolutions of this sort. The Hon'ble Mr. Kitchler was candid enough to say that the resolution was accepted because it was in general terms and because no allotment of a definite sum was asked for. The Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem's resolutions mentioned specific sums, though very small, and they were opposed because Government thought that they would tie its hands. The meaning of the opposition is obvious, because if these two resolutions concerning definite allotments were passed, the educational authorities could not have got out of them by any dexterous somersaults. The Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction in making his speech on the resolution of the Hon'ble Nawab Ali Chaudhuri had evidently in view the two resolutions of the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem which were to follow, and he attempted to show that the claims of the Muhammadan community had been consistently recognised by the Government all along and any resolution that tied its hands was unacceptable as it was, in his opinion, unnecessary, if nothing else. The journal does not deny that the Muhammadans are getting help from the Government for their education, but what is gravely felt is that they are not getting their due and legitimate share. In the Burdwan and the Presidency Divisions, leaving aside the town of Calcutta, there is not a single Muhammadan hostel erected with Government money. It is only recently that a grant has been made for a hostel at Jessore. The late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam did something for the Muhammadans in this connection in the eastern districts, and the community is thankful to that Government for this. As for stipends for Muhammadan students, some scholarships were created for them so long ago as 1887 and since then, as the Hon'ble Maulvi Abul Kasem has said, no steps have been taken to give them any further assistance, though the number of Muhammadan students has since largely increased and is growing. The speeches which Maulvi Abul Kasem made in moving his resolution contained things to which the Hon'ble Mr. Kitchler could not give satisfactory replies. It is a pity that the Government did not see its way to accept the two resolutions making so moderate demands. The Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Shams-ul-Huda is reported to have remarked that in the course of his tour he found that the wants of the Muhammadans were such that it would be impracticable for the Government to meet them. The journal thinks the remark was absolutely unnecessary. It may be that Government has not the means to satisfy all the educational demands of the community, but the resolutions that were before the Council did not make any exorbitant demands which the Government was unable to satisfy, but asked for only shares of the grants already budgetted, and thus the papers fails to see the need of the remark made by the Hon'ble the Indian Member of His Excellency's Executive Council.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
21st Mar. 1913.

380. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes to convey its hearty congratulations to the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banarji and the Hon'ble Mr. Vijiaraghava Chariar on their

The Conspiracy Bill.

earnest and dignified protests against the passing of the Conspiracy Bill. They were no doubt in the minority of two, but it was a glorious minority which they and their countrymen may well be proud of. Mr. Banarji told nothing but the whole truth when he observed that, so far as Bengal was concerned, "he would at once say that the Bill was not in accord with the wishes of that province." He could safely make this statement by laying his hand on his breast: nay, if a plebescite could be taken, it would transpire that he and Mr. Vijiaraghava Chariar fully voiced the opinion of the entire Indian community in this matter. Mr. Vijiaraghava Chariar's speech, judging from its summary, seems to have been a grand one and will no doubt find a



place in history. His conclusion that "in justice to myself, in justice to my countrymen, in justice to my sovereign, and, I say, in justice to Englishmen themselves, it is a short-sighted policy to follow the tactics" underlying the measure, is as heart-penetrating as it is true. As regards the non-official members who supported the Bill, all that they can assert in justification of their conduct is that they have followed the light within them. This may be true; but in a question like this, they should have been illumined and guided not by their own light but that of the nation, if they wished to preserve their representative character. The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock "felt sure that the majority of members were satisfied with safeguards, and fears expressed by members opposing the Bill were groundless." But is that the feeling of the general public for whose alleged benefit the new weapon has been forged? No one can dispute the stubborn fact that they never wanted the measure and that it has been forced on them without consulting their wishes. It is only in unfortunate India that such a thing is possible. In justice and fairness to all parties concerned, the non-official supporters of the measure should have made it plain that their views in this respect were their own, and not of the people who were given no opportunity to express their opinions on the subject, and that they only represented themselves and not the latter in the Council, however unnerved they might have been by the something like personal appeal of Sir R. Craddock for support. The journal is at a loss to understand why all this fuss was made and public time and energies wasted, when the Bill, like several other repressive measures, might have been passed as soon as it was introduced, at a single sitting.

381. If the Associated Press report can be regarded as reliable, some of the non-official members who supported the Conspiracy Bill gave strange reasons in support of their

The Conspiracy Bill.

action. Here, for instance, is what the *Bengalee* reads about the Hon'ble Mr. Ghuznavi:—"Mr. Ghuznavi thought Burke and Mill had not been read aright in India and dwelt upon the real purpose of British rule in India and urged the Council to pass the Bill." What Burke and Mill or, for that matter, the mission of British rule had to do with the Conspiracy Bill passes one's comprehension. Perhaps the Hon'ble Member will explain. For the rest the journal does not for a moment admit that Burke and Mill have been misread in India. That they have been misread by a large section of critics is a subject of frequent complaint in the Indian press. That they have been read to little purpose by some non-official members of the Legislative Council is known well enough and known to one's cost. But there is nothing to show that the educated community in India and their representatives in the press and on the platform have not read Burke and Mill as thoroughly and as profitably as those in England who draw their inspiration from the historic Conservatism of the one and the Philosophical Liberalism of the other.

382. There was a pathetic humour, observes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, in Sir Reginald Craddock's assuring the Hon'ble

*Ibid.*

Babu Surendra Nath Banarji and the Council in reply to his suggestion that the police would have unlimited powers in respect of cognizable crimes under the Bill "that Mr. Banarji need have no anxiety about it," inasmuch as the Government assumed "full responsibility," and all that. But may it be asked where Sir R. Craddock will be when any abuse of these elastic provisions of the law will be perpetrated by the police? He will be safe and comfortable in his own home thousands of miles away from Indian shores, and won't think of coming back to rescue the victims and see that his own generous assurance is respected by the police. The same sort of gilding was given to the other bitter pill, viz., the Press Law—by Sir H. Risley when he sought to thrust it down the unwilling throats of the nation. But the paper knows from bitter experience what his assurance was worth.

383. The *Telegraph* writes that the Budget in its final form was passed by the Imperial Council on Thursday last. There were little or no changes, for, as usual, the recommendations of the popular representatives fell on deaf ears, and were rejected by the Government. The only difference that is marked is that the Secretary of State has reduced the estimates of his drawing

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PATRIKA.  
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22nd Mar. 1913.

The Budget passed by the Imperial Council.



this and increased the same for the next year. It is this fact which sinks deep into the heart of the people, because they know what will conduce to their own welfare and pray for the same. The kind and sympathetic rulers, however, do not attend to these solicitations of the subject people. The journal is aware that a number of recommendations were made by non-official members; and these related to subjects which were close to the heart of the latter, yet the Government did not accept them.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HERALD  
25th Mar. 1913.

384. If to focus the opinion of the province on the burning questions of the day affecting the national well-being and to give it an authoritative voice be the main function of the Provincial Conference, if again, the stimulating of all that is best and noblest in the public life of the country and fostering a spirit of national solidarity be any criterion of success of any session of the Conference, the Dacca Conference may, the *Herald* thinks, undoubtedly be congratulated upon the grand and remarkable success it has achieved. The number of delegates, representing the different districts of Bengal, came up to nearly five hundred and the visitors, men and women, were estimated at over three thousand. And the lively and intelligent interest they all evinced in the business of the Conference, the happy combination of a spirit of independence with that of self-restraint, of patriotic enthusiasm with practical wisdom, and the spirit of mutual esteem and the desire to suit and understand each other that marked the debates on the Subjects Committee, all went to point to a happy and remarkable improvement in the tone and character of public life of Bengal.

BENGALIAN,  
25th Mar. 1913.

385. The *Bengalee* writes that the Bengal Provincial Conference opened its sittings at Dacca on Saturday last. The *pandal*, which provided accommodation for 4,000 people, was filled to its utmost capacity, and great enthusiasm appears to have characterised the proceedings. The Hon'ble Babu Ananda Chandra Ray, Chairman of the Reception Committee, made an interesting speech in welcoming the delegates, in the course of which he regretted that "though the partition had been modified the whole of the Bengali-speaking people had not been placed under one administration." Babu Ananda Chandra Ray expressed the hope that it would still be possible to get the wrong righted. The *Bengalee* fully shares this hope. Many settled facts have been unsettled before now, and if only Indians are true to themselves, if only the community will carry on the struggle strenuously and earnestly, there is no reason to doubt that constitutional agitation will once more triumph over official opposition.

BENGALIAN,  
26th Mar. 1913.

386. The *Bengalee* thinks that no part of the Presidential address at the Bengal Provincial Conference will be read with greater interest than that in which Babu Aswini Kumar deplored the decadence of the *swadeshi* spirit. They must call back the *swadeshi* spirit, said the President, its enthusiasm and vigour, in order that they might rise economically, socially and morally. It was imperative, he added, that the Government and the people should work shoulder to shoulder in love and confidence. There may perhaps be a difference of opinion as to the precise position of the *swadeshi* movement at present—there are certainly many who will not admit that the spirit, as distinguished from the movement, of *swadeshim*, is decadent. Many have been the causes, they say, which have operated to check the growth of the demonstrative side of *swadeshim*, but the spirit is still there, alert and active, though manifesting itself silently and noiselessly and under a sense of restraint imposed upon it from without. But even those who do not accept the President's conclusion will admit that the appeal which he made to his audience, and through them to the country at large, to cultivate the spirit of *swadeshim* was entirely worthy of the occasion and the man. It is, indeed, impossible to doubt that with the progress of *swadeshim* the cause of the country's regeneration is inseparably bound up. They know not what *swadeshim* is who look upon it merely as a substitute for protection; in other words, merely as an economic doctrine. As an economic



doctrine merely, it has been claimed for *swadeshim* by some of its advocates that it is decidedly better and more desirable than protection.

387. It was a happy inspiration on the part of the authorities of the Bengal Provincial Conference, remarks the *Bengalee*, to send a message of congratulation to the All-India Moslem League on its placing before itself the goal of self-government on the lines adopted by the

The Bengal Provincial Conference and the All-India Moslem League.

Congress and the Conferences. It is perfectly clear that every day the League and the Congress are coming perceptibly nearer to each other, and there can be no doubt that an occasional interchange of friendly and formal amenities will help forward the process of fusion that is going on before one's eyes. It is a matter for sincere congratulation too that whatever difference may have existed in the past between Hindus and Muhammadans in the matter of their political ideal and the methods by which it was to be realised is fast disappearing. The All-India Moslem League took a notable step in advance when it placed before itself the goal of self-government. It has now gone further and has openly declared that it is its firm belief that the future development and progress of the people of India depend exclusively on the harmonious working and co-operation of the various communities. This is the belief which Congressmen have always held and to which they have given emphatic expression whenever there has been an occasion. The League deprecated all mischievous attempts to widen the unfortunate breach between Hindus and Mussalmans, and expressed the hope that the leaders on both sides would periodically meet together to restore the amicable relations prevailing between them in the past and find a *modus operandi* for joint and concerted action for the promotion of public good. This is the very suggestion that has repeatedly been made by the journal, and it is earnestly to be hoped, now that it has received the support of so influential a body as the League, that practical steps will be taken to give effect to it. Such steps have, indeed, been taken from time to time in the past, and if they have not been as successful as they might have been, the reason probably is that the recognition of the necessity for united action was not quite adequate. To-day there is scarcely an educated man, whether Hindu or Muhammadan, who does not feel that it is only by united endeavour that the good of the country may be effectively promoted. The day cannot be far off when politically, educationally and economically the whole body of the people will constitute a single and practically homogeneous community and when one single central organization, with its branches in the provinces and districts, will voice the sense of the community in all these matters.

BENGALURU,  
26th Mar. 1913.

388. It is a matter for sincere congratulation, says the *Herald*, that the Dacca session of the Provincial Social Conference has been singularly successful in so far as it served to create a healthy public opinion in favour of social reform. And the journal does not know that the Social Conference, as it is constituted, can be expected to do more than popularise the cause of social reform. In speaking of the success of the Dacca session, however, the paper would not conceal the fact that the idea of a session of the Social Conference at Dacca along with the Provincial Conference, was not quite welcome to most of those who were primarily responsible for the organization of a session of the Provincial Conference at Dacca. It is, however, due to the authorities of the Provincial Conference at Dacca to say that they not only expressed the opinion that a session of the Social Conference at Dacca was desirable, but they also made it known that they would gladly lend the use of their *pandal* for the purposes of the Social Conference, if anybody would come forward to organize it. Thus if they did not choose to take upon themselves the work of the Social Conference, they were not, at any rate, hostile to it. Thanks, however, chiefly to the efforts of Messrs. Prithwish Chandra Ray, Satyananda Basu, Satis Chandra Chatterji, and the earnest wishes of and encouragement from friends of social reform in Calcutta and elsewhere, the Dacca session came to be not only an accomplished fact but, as the journal has already said, a singularly successful one.

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389. The *Herald* writes that while in Bengal the Provincial Conference is being held at Dacca, the All-India Moslem League were celebrating their sixth anniversary at Lucknow. And although the difference between the objective of the nationalistic movement of the Congress on the one hand and the sectional movement

HERALD,  
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of the Moslem League on the other, is indeed well known, the Lucknow session of the Moslem League confirms the optimistic opinion that in respect of the ultimate goal, the two are identical. And this opens an important chapter in the history of the political evolution of the people of India, the great significance of which cannot, indeed, be exaggerated. But this acceptance of the Congress ideal by the Moslem League comes as a bomb-shell to those who erroneously think that any advance made by the people towards the ideal of self-government is bound to result in disastrous consequences to British rule in India. It is no wonder, therefore, that these men should make no secret of their desire to keep the Moslems at a conveniently safe distance from the ideal of self-government held up to the country by the Congress as its final political goal. According to the revised constitution the first object of the League is to maintain and promote, among the people of this country, feelings of loyalty towards the British Crown. This is as it should be. But this loyalty of the League is not a little different in spirit from the loyalty of the League in its primary stage, a conception of loyalty which would tolerate no criticism of the Government and label the attitude of the Congress as disloyal and unacceptable. It is, therefore, remarkable that this new conception of the League's loyalty would not only see errors and blunders in the British administration of India in the past, but also recognise that the "authorities are liable to commit such errors and blunders again." "And if, in its watchfulness," says Mr. Shafi, "of the best interests of the rulers and the ruled, the Moslem League finds the Government about to commit what in its judgment is an error, it will be the first to give warning to the authorities and, if necessary, even to enter a respectful protest against the contemplated action."

INDIAN MIRROR,  
27th Mar. 1913.

390. The *Indian Mirror* observes that the All-India Moslem League, like the Indian National Congress, is passing through an interesting phase. What the ultimate development will be, no one can foretell, but, judging from the Hon'ble Mr. Shafi's presidential speech at the last annual session of the League at Lucknow one would feel great concern for the future of that body. It is said in some quarters that old veterans like the Aga Khan and Mr. Amir Ali were opposed to the holding of the annual session of the League at a time when passions were running high, and that instructions to this effect were cabled from head-quarters in London. But the Moslem League is evidently breaking away from the moorings to which it was safely fastened by its founder, Sir Saiyid Ahmad. It will not be surprising if the bark drifts away into deep water for want of steady pilotage. Anyhow, Mr. Shafi's address is bound to create a division in Moslem ranks, and the journal is not sure that Hindu "nationalists" will be so charmed by it as Mr. Shafi anticipates. Moderates men of both parties are certainly bewildered. Mr. Shafi assumes the rôle of a prophet and tells his co-religionists:—"The Indian political atmosphere is already reverberating with the distant echoes of a coming storm, which, though as yet below the far horizon, is travelling steadily onward until at last it is sure to burst over our heads." He explains himself thus:—"The murmurs of provincial autonomy, increased power of interpellation, a non-official majority in the Imperial Legislative Council, and the advent of the Special Commission on the Public Services in India, are but the forerunners of that storm." How these topics can presage a thunderous storm such as that pictured by Mr. Shafi passes one's comprehension, but it is known, of course, that some political speeches are like rockets, which go off with a whiz, blaze out in mid-air, and come down with a thud. The Indian storm is not the only thing which disturbs Mr. Shafi. "In the Moslem world outside India momentous events," he says, "have taken place, which, besides changing the maps of three continents, are bound to have tremendous effects upon the fortunes of Islam." Mr. Shafi then ascends another flight of eloquence and observes:—"Indeed, the great ocean has been disturbed by a storm the consequent commotion of which will be felt far and wide on every Moslem shore." In view of all this, Mr. Shafi tells his co-religionists not to be caught napping—wise advice, no doubt.

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